

4. UNUSUAL FEEDING BEHAVIOUR OF NILGAI

On May 1976 at Nawegaon Lake in Bhandara District a large adult Nilgai (*Boselaphus tragocamelus*) was seen near a moving terrapin. The Nilgai placed its right fore foot on the terrapin which froze. The Nilgai appeared to have pressed the terrapin, whose neck protruded out, the Nilgai grabbed the

neck and pulled out the head, neck, part of the body with the viscera and ate it.

I enquired with the local Gond tribals, and Shri Madhav Patil of Paoni, a naturalist and well known Shikari who confirmed that they had observed Nilgai feeding on terrapin.

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5. THE QUILLS THAT MAKE A RED PORCUPINE

While trekking in the Valliyur Reserve Forest and looking for evidence of Wildlife on 8-8-1979, a Porcupine quill, which had red black bands, instead of the usual white and black was found. Intensive search of the area resulted in the collection of a few more red and black banded quills at various places within the Valliyur Forests upto the foot hills. Freshly fallen quills were met with and collected throughout the year. Normal coloured, i.e., black and white banded quills were not noticed in this area though they were found in adjoining areas.

From the distribution of these quills, characteristic cheroot shaped faecal droppings and leading foot prints, a den of Red Porcupine was located and watched. "Monolick" and common salt were placed under a ledge nearby, Red Porcupine occupying the den had been using the salt licks. In August'80 (13-8-1980) a partially decayed carcass of Red porcupine was found. The quills were intact and in position on to the dried skin. Their measurements and weights are given below:

1. Quills on the crest, reddish orange or blackish orange thin, hairlike in appearance directed backward erectile, not banded.

Maximum length	=	30 cm.
Minimum length	=	15 cm.
Average length	=	25 cm.
Total numbers	=	672
Total weight	=	12 grams.

2. Quills on the back, flexible to form C and resilient when one end is released springs back straight, about 6% of the quills of this category are black and white banded.

a) Red and white banded	b) Black and white banded
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Maximum length	=	46 cm.	30 cm.
Minimum length	=	12 cm.	17 cm.
Average length	=	25 cm.	22 cm.
Total number	=	152	9
Weight	=	67 grams.	2 grams.

3. Quills on the small the back (short, stout, strong) sharp pointed some with longitudinal furrows.

a) Red and white banded quills.	b) Black and white banded.
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Maximum length	=	22 cm.	19 cm.
Minimum length	=	3 cm.	5 cm.
Average length	=	10 cm.	10 cm.
Weight			21 grams.
Total number			69